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Sen. Garcia introduces legislation to temporarily adjust child-support payments for deployed National Guard and reserve members

LANSING – National Guard and reserve members called to military duty could see a temporary modification in child-support payments with legislation introduced today by state Sen. Valde Garcia, R-Howell.

Senate Bill 1128 would qualify military deployment as a “change in circumstance” and allow a National Guard or reserve member to pay an adjusted amount in child-support payments if the military member experiences a decrease in compensation.

“National Guard members and reserve military personnel serve our country often with great sacrifice when they are called to military duty,” said Sen. Garcia. “Those who pay child support should not be burdened with having to pay more than their fair amount. This bill ensures fairness.”

At present, child-support payments may only be modified due to a “change in circumstance,” and military deployment does not qualify as a change in circumstance. In order for the military member to receive a temporary child-support payment adjustment he or she must provide proof of deployment date and compensation rate. Within 30 days of discharge from active duty, the military member will be required to notify the Friend of the Court to reinstate the previous amount paid in child support.

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